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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Congressman Biden: Turkish troops to Iraq - Hurriyet  
U.S. treats Iraqi prisoners brutally - Hurriyet  
Iraqi prisoners were denied water, toilet - Sabah  
U.S. tortures Iraqi prisoners - Aksam  
Straw: No reason to attack Iran - Aksam  
Sezer delays EU adjustment - Sabah  
Gul asks for Powell's support for Cyprus solution - Milliyet  
Saddam rumored to wander through Baghdad streets - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Call intensifying for Turkish troops to Iraq - Zaman  
Amnesty International: U.S. violates international law in  
Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
Iraq: USA's new Guantanamo - Yeni Safak  
U.S. launches 'Operation Rattlesnake' to get Saddam -  
Radikal  
Iran to extradite Al-Qaida members - Yeni Safak  
Israel withdraws from Gaza - Yeni Safak  
Israel's 'secret prisons' unveiled - Zaman  
Israel boycotts BBC - Radikal  
Italian minister: Turkey's military guarantor of regime -  
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

U.S. Congressmen ask for Turkish troops: U.S. Congressmen  
have urged the American Administration to seek the support  
of NATO members like Turkey, Germany and France who did not  
cooperate fully with the U.S. in the war with Iraq. These  
countries could help the U.S. solve the security problem in  
Iraq. 'This might be a way to convince the Iraqis that the  
U.S. is not an occupier,' Joseph Biden said over the  
weekend.

President vetoes EU adjustment laws: President Sezer has  
vetoed sections of a package of reform laws designed to  
bring Turkey into compliance with EU membership standards.  
Sezer voiced concern that the amendments to the anti-terror  
law would leave acts of terrorism unpunished. Mainstream  
and liberal papers criticize Sezer for creating an obstacle  
on Turkey's road to the EU. AKP officials were disappointed  
by the veto, and said the parliament will send the package  
back to the President without changes.

Gul to U.S. in late July: "Hurriyet" claims that the U.S.  
and Turkey have started preparations for a visit to the U.S.  
by Foreign Minister Gul in the last week of July. Hurriyet  
believes the Gul visit will pave the way for an official  
visit to Washington by Prime Minister Erdogan.

Gul gives Powell Cyprus message: Foreign Minister Gul told  
Secretary Powell at WEF meetings in Amman last month that

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the Cyprus problem could be resolved if some modifications  
are made to the UN-sponsored peace plan. Gul also asserted  
to Greek Foreign Minister Papandreou and UN Secretary  
General Annan that Turkey was exerting considerable effort

for a reaching a Cyprus solution.

Turkish Cypriot opposition unites against Denktas: The Social Liberation Party (TKP), the most prominent opposition group in Northern Cyprus, has established the 'Peace and Democracy Movement' in alliance with two leftist parties and 16 NGOs. The coalition is also backed by businessmen, academics, and artists. The leading leftist party, the Republican Turkish Party (CTP) has not joined the block. Commentaries expect pro-Denktas parties in North Cyprus to form an alliance as well.

Ambassador Signs Agreement for Beef Cattle Feasibility Study: Papers report that Ambassador Pearson and representatives of Run Agra, a U.S. company, signed a letter of intent with Yasar Holding's Camli Livestock Company for a feasibility study for the use of U.S. cattle production techniques in Turkey. The \$460,000 agreement is being financed by the U.S. Trade Development Agency, and is part of an effort to increase Turkish beef production.

Amnesty International: U.S. mistreats Iraqi prisoners: Amnesty International (AI) announced that it has collected evidence showing American mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners. In a report submitted to the UN-sponsored human rights conference in Baghdad, AI noted that hundreds of Iraqis affiliated with Saddam's regime are being held in tent camps, and have been denied the chance to meet with their families or lawyers. The prisoners include not only high-level officials of the former regime, but also looters and petty criminals, the AI report noted.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US-Turkish relations in the post Iraq war

"Washington's view of the Turkish military"  
Sedat Ergin observed in mass appeal Hurriyet (7/1): "The atmosphere in Washington leads me to conclude that the effects of Turkey's rejection of the parliamentary motion during the Iraq crisis will not be easily eliminated. It will really take time to cure the bilateral relationship. . . In Washington there is a strong antipathy toward the Turkish military, which is blamed for the rejection of the US troop deployment in Turkey. There are many on Washington scene who put the blame directly on the military, and do not consider the matter as an outcome of the democratic process. . . It seems AKP propaganda about the issue (pinning the blame on the military) has been influential in Washington as well. The Pentagon in particular remains very upset with the Turkish military, because it took the military for granted from the beginning. There is also a failure to appreciate the psychological effect among the public of the spectre of the deployment of 60,000 US soldiers in Turkey. By blaming the Turkish military for the entire affair, decision-makers in Washington are avoiding admitting their own mistakes."

"Formulating a foreign policy without Washington's support"  
Murat Yetkin shared his observations in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (7/1): "Washington blames the Turkish military for the rejection of the motion to allow US troops in Turkey during the Iraq crisis. The American military shares this conviction. . The Pentagon and State Department are more calm than the US military hierarchy, as demonstrated by Secretary Powell's visit to Turkey and the decision to provide \$1 billion in aid to Turkey. . The whole issue provides a lesson for both sides. From now on, neither Turkey nor the US can take each other for granted. In this way, bilateral ties will likely be carried to a new level. Ties between Turkey and the US can be divided into two periods: the first 40 years marked by a policy of containment against Russia, and the last 10 years by a policy of containment against Iraq. Instability in the Balkans can be added to the factors shaping relations in recent times. Turkey has always considered itself indispensable for the US because of Incirlik airbase. Whenever the Cyprus or Armenian issues were brought to the agenda, Turkey's strategic importance was sufficient to persuade the White House as well as Congress. . Now Ankara will have to cope with these problems for itself. By approving the March 1 motion, Turkey might have ensured the backing of the US for a while, but US support would still have diminished in the end. The rejection has caught Turkey unprepared for this inevitability. There is, however, a positive side as well. As a result of the rupture with the United States, Turkey has gained a chance to shape its foreign policy without relying on US support. Turkey now might be able to develop healthier and stronger ties both with the US and the EU."

